

Smart Harbors

Fall 2024



Updates From Virginia Institute of Marine Science

It's our 25th Anniversary!

The Virginia Clean Marina Program is celebrating its 25th Anniversary!

Video Contest – Winner!

Congratulations to [Deltaville Yachting Center](#), the winner of the video contest! Their video featured Clean Boating information, monofilament collection for recycling, rain barrels, their wildlife habitat, and more! Prizes included oil absorbent sheets, a reusable coffee mug, and Clean Marina Program stickers. Well done Deltaville Yachting Center!

Why become a Virginia Clean Boater?

By adopting pollution prevention measures, Virginia Clean Boaters can take satisfaction in knowing they are doing their part to keep Virginia waterways clean, preserve our waterways for the future, and learn/teach clean boating habits. For more information, click [here](#).

CMP Highlighted Marina – Smith Point Marina

This quarter's highlighted marina is [Smith Point Marina](#). Smith Point Marina was one of our original Clean Marinas certified in the late 90's.

SMITH POINT MARINA, strategically located at the mouth of the Potomac where it enters the Chesapeake Bay, is a great go-to for three season fishing. One mile from the Marina, the Virginia, Maryland and Potomac River Fisheries Commission boundaries meet, so at any date, something is IN-SEASON. The scenic Little Wicomico River is a busy growing area for oysters and crabs, but humans enjoy

it for its beauty, bounty, watersports and convenience to the Bay.

One of the first marinas to qualify as a Virginia Clean Marina, Smith Point Marina has helped keep nearby waterways clean by employing proven methods such as upland bottom cleaning, safe storage and transfer of petroleum liquids and pump-out of boats and RV's. Our recycling center handles all metals, wire, cans and other byproducts of boat maintenance. We have worked hard to reduce direct runoff from the parking lot to bay waters. Our mechanics are also well versed in the Clean Marina requirements and take extra care while refueling boats to reduce spillage.

We are home base for Charter fishing boats and Smith Point Sea Rescue's 42' all-weather rescue boat. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation finds Smith Point Marina a convenient meeting place for school excursions to nearby islands and Georgetown University's Potomac-Chesapeake Dolphin researchers regularly operate out of SPM. With covered docks to 40' and floating docks, in a well-protected natural harbor, we are often the port of refuge for those who may have gotten more wave action on the Bay than they could tolerate.

We are located near a working fishing village in the rural Northern Neck where eagles, osprey, heron, owls, deer and wild turkeys are daily visitors. Though a little remote from shopping destinations (Kilmarnock is 25 miles away) there are a multitude of activities available on the water in our community. Our customers, who enjoy sunsets and stargazing over the pines and not roof tops, would have it no other way!



Updates from External Partners

Upcoming Webinars / Conferences

AMI Hurricane Mitigation (November 13, 2024, 12 PM EST): Join AMI and preview our upcoming Hurricane Mitigation Pre-Conference Workshop. In this webinar, we'll discuss risks and vulnerabilities, mitigation strategies, and insurance. Non-member cost: \$35.00. [Register here.](#)

Electrical Code: Interested in learning more about the National Electrical Code 2023 updates? [Access for free here.](#)

BoatUS Marine Debris Conference (February 25 – 27, 2025): BoatUS is hosting a virtual conference in February 2025. Please contact acclark@vims.edu for more information.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation – Oyster Gardening

Interested in Oyster Gardening at your marina? Please contact acclark@vims.edu or Jlutzow@cbf.org for more information if you would like to partner with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.



Industry News

Call for Volunteer Reviewers for New Grant Program to Remove Abandoned Derelict Vessels (ADV) Nationwide

From BoatUS, August 28, 2024

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is seeking a diverse panel of volunteers who will serve as peer reviewers to evaluate proposals for Abandoned and Derelict Vessel (ADV) removal grants between December 2024 and July 2025.

The Foundation has been [awarded a four-year, \\$10 million grant](#) from the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program](#) with funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to clean up and improve safety along coastal areas by removing abandoned and damaged boats from our nation's waterways and the Great Lakes. Reviewers will be part of this national effort to improve the environment and remove unsightly vessels from our waters.

Volunteers with backgrounds in marine debris management, the boating industry, education, non-profits, government agencies, marketing and outreach, grant management, financial analysis, project evaluation, impact assessment, as well as legal or regulatory fields are encouraged to apply. Reviewers are asked to commit to at least one review cycle (2-3 months) with an expected time commitment of 25 hours per cycle that includes independent review of proposals and 4-8 hours of virtual meetings.

How to Apply:

Prospective grant reviewers are encouraged to learn more about the [BoatUS Foundation Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Program](#). To apply, visit the [Grant Reviewer Application page](#).

Casting for comfort; how fishing can improve your health

From George Noleff, Wavy News, September 11, 2024

Fishing, and especially fly fishing, can help improve your health.

A Harvard Medical School publication “On the Brain”, found that fishing can help trigger something called the human relaxation response. That response helps people to deal with stress, and provides a number [of] health benefits.

They include:

- Improved mental focus and clarity
- Better attention spans
- Lower blood pressure
- Better sense of well-being

The simple act of getting out into nature has been proven to have a calming effect. The experts say repetitive motion like casting also provides a meditative effect that has positive impacts on mental health.

How to Prepare During Hurricane Season

As we are in the middle of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season, the Clean Marina Program brings you resources to prepare before, during, and after a storm.

[The National Hurricane Center at NOAA](#) provides tracking and forecasted rainfall totals ahead of storms.

[The Weather Channel](#) posts videos about broad impacts to expect from storms, while local news forecasts generally have more regional-specific information ([Hampton Roads](#), [Northern Virginia](#), [Western Virginia](#)).

Most of Virginia is covered by the National Weather Service - Weather Forecast Offices in [Wakefield](#), [Blacksburg](#), and [Baltimore/Washington](#).

[BoatUS](#) hosts videos, checklists, and more on their site so you can feel prepared.

FEMA has resources for [before](#), [during](#), and [after](#) a storm.

Happy 25th Anniversary Virginia Clean Marina Program!



Please Share Your News!

If you have any news that you would like included in the Clean Marina Newsletter, *Smart Harbors*, please let us know! This is a quarterly newsletter with the next issue scheduled for Winter 2025 and we would like to include information from the marina community. If you have comments or questions, please email the Virginia Clean Marina Program: askVCMP@vims.edu or acclark@vims.edu or call (804) 684-7768.



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